

Contents

Summary	iii
1. Purpose of and Need for Proposed Action	1-1
Proposed Action	1-1
Study Area and Affected Highways.....	1-2
Purpose of Proposed Action	1-2
Need for Proposed Action.....	1-2
Traffic Data	1-3
Safety	1-5
System Linkage and Route Importance	1-7
Existing Highway Characteristics.....	1-8
Local Issues.....	1-10
Purpose and Need Summary.....	1-11
Forecast Traffic.....	1-12
Safety	1-12
System Linkage and Route Importance	1-12
Existing Highway Characteristics.....	1-13
Local Issues.....	1-13
2. Alternatives/Recommended Alternative.....	2-1
Alternatives Development	2-1
Initial Planning Phase	2-1
Data Gathering – Existing Resources and Constraints	2-1
Local Government/Agency Coordination	2-2
Public Involvement	2-2
Initial Range of Alternatives Considered.....	2-2
No Action Alternative.....	2-2
Transportation System Management Alternative	2-2
Widen Existing Highway Alternative	2-4
Build Alternatives.....	2-5
Alternatives Refinement/Screening	2-5
No Action Alternative.....	2-5
Transportation System Management Alternative	2-6
Build Alternatives.....	2-7
Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study	2-8
No Action Alternative.....	2-8
Build Alternatives.....	2-8
Other Alternatives Considered.....	2-11
Southern Section	2-12
Central Section	2-12
Northern Section.....	2-12
Identification of the Recommended Alternative.....	2-12
Basis for Selecting the Recommended Alternative	2-13
Alternatives Comparison – Purpose and Need	2-13

Alternatives Comparison—Environmental and Socioeconomic Impacts....	2-15
Alternatives Comparison—Public and Agency Comments	2-16
3. Affected Environment.....	3-1
Land Use and Related Characteristics	3-1
Geographical Setting	3-1
General Land Use / Zoning	3-1
Transportation Service	3-2
Residential Development.....	3-4
Commercial and Industrial Development.....	3-4
Institutional and Public Services.....	3-5
Cemeteries.....	3-7
Aesthetics	3-7
Socioeconomic Characteristics	3-7
Population Levels and Trends	3-7
Income and Work Force	3-7
Environmental and Related Resources	3-10
Surface Water and Fishery.....	3-10
Floodplains	3-10
Groundwater and Water Supply	3-10
Upland Habitat/Wildlife	3-12
Threatened and Endangered Species	3-13
Agricultural Resources.....	3-14
Hazardous Materials	3-14
Soil and Mineral Resources	3-15
Cultural Resources.....	3-15
Archaeological.....	3-15
Historic Properties	3-16
Recreational Resources / Public Use Lands.....	3-17
Parks / Fairgrounds	3-17
Bicycle Facilities	3-18
Snowmobile Trails	3-18
Highway Wayside	3-18
4. Environmental Consequences	4-1
Land Use Planning and Zoning.....	4-1
Secondary Impacts.....	4-2
Viroqua and Westby	4-2
Surrounding Towns.....	4-4
Conclusions.....	4-7
Transportation Impacts.....	4-9
System Linkage/Route Importance	4-9
Traffic Volumes	4-9
Roadway Capacity	4-10
Operational Characteristics	4-11
Safety	4-11
Access to Facilities and Services	4-12
Viroqua Municipal Airport.....	4-12
Utility Impacts	4-13

Aesthetics.....	4-13
Socioeconomic Impacts.....	4-14
Neighborhoods and Community Cohesion	4-14
Conceptual Stage Relocation Discussion	4-15
Environmental Justice.....	4-18
Economic Impacts	4-19
Environmental and Related Resource Impacts	4-20
Surface Water and Fishery	4-20
Floodplain and Hydraulics	4-24
Groundwater and Water Supply.....	4-25
Wetlands	4-25
Upland Habitat / Wildlife	4-26
Endangered/Threatened Species.....	4-26
Agricultural Impacts	4-27
Cemeteries	4-28
Hazardous Materials.....	4-28
Air Quality.....	4-29
Noise.....	4-30
Energy	4-33
Cultural Resources Impacts	4-33
Archaeological	4-33
Historic Property	4-34
Recreational Resources / Public Use Land.....	4-37
Snowmobile Trails.....	4-37
Highway Wayside.....	4-38
Section 4(f) Evaluation.....	4-38
Vernon County Snowmobile Trail	4-38
Highway Wayside.....	4-38
Historic Property	4-38
Relationship of Local Short-Term Uses versus Long-Term Productivity	4-39
Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources.....	4-40
5. Commitment to Impact Mitigation	5-1
Mitigation Provisions.....	5-1
Traffic Management.....	5-1
Noise and Air Quality.....	5-1
Property Acquisition.....	5-2
Material Source / Disposal Sites	5-2
Water Quality.....	5-2
Floodplain and Hydraulics	5-3
Wetlands	5-3
Upland Habitat	5-3
Threatened and Endangered Species	5-3
Permits and Related Approvals	5-3
Environmental Protection Agency Pollution Prevention Strategies	5-4
6. Wetlands – Only Practicable Alternative Finding	6-1
Basis for Finding	6-1
Alternatives	6-1

No Action Alternative	6-1
Recommended Alternative.....	6-1
Determination of No Practicable Alternative	6-2
No Action Alternative	6-2
Build Alternatives	6-2
Measures to Minimize Harm.....	6-4
Avoid and Minimize Wetland Impacts	6-4
Wetland Compensation	6-4
Wetland Finding	6-5
7. Comments and Coordination.....	7-1
During Draft EIS Preparation.....	7-1
Public Involvement.....	7-1
Public Information Meetings.....	7-1
Local Information Centers	7-2
Project Advisory Committee	7-3
Property Owner Contacts	7-3
Newsletters	7-4
Press Releases, Newspaper Ads, Update Articles.....	7-4
Public Information Web Site.....	7-4
Telephone Information Line.....	7-4
Agency and Local Government Coordination.....	7-4
Following Draft EIS Availability.....	7-5
Public Involvement.....	7-6
Public Hearing.....	7-6
Summary of Oral and Written Comments	7-7
Agency Comments.....	7-13
Project Advisory Committee (PAC) Meetings.....	7-13
Public Information Meeting	7-14
Update Article	7-14

Appendices

- A List of Preparers
- B Distribution List
- C Agency Correspondence during Draft EIS Preparation
- D Agency Comments on Draft EIS

Index

Aerial Photo Exhibit

Tables

S-1	Impact Summary	viii
1-1	Study Area Crash Rate Comparison to Statewide Averages	1-6
1-2	LOS Design Guidelines (Roadway Mainline)	1-9
1-3	Existing and Future Level of Service Comparison	1-10
3-1	Study Area Population	3-8
3-2	Minority Population.....	3-8
3-3	Study Area Income	3-9
3-4	Vernon County Employment by Industry.....	3-9
3-5	Dominant Plant Species in Study Area Wetlands.....	3-12
4-1	Secondary Impact Summary.....	4-5
4-2	Summary of Tools to Address Secondary Impacts.....	4-8
4-3	Existing and Future Level of Service Comparison	4-10
4-4	Utility Impacts for Reasonable Build Alternatives	4-13
4-5	Residential Displacements	4-16
4-6	Residential Displacement Characteristics.....	4-16
4-7	Availability of Replacement Housing	4-17
4-8	Business Displacement Summary	4-17
4-9	Residential/Business Displacement Cost Estimates	4-18
4-10	Cost Estimate Summary	4-19
4-11	Economic Impacts of Construction.....	4-21
4-12	Surface Water Impacts	4-22
4-13	Pollutant Concentrations in Highway Runoff.....	4-23
4-14	Floodplain Impacts for Build Alternatives	4-24
4-15	Groundwater Impacts for Build Alternatives.....	4-25
4-16	Wetland Impacts.....	4-26
4-17	Upland Habitat Impacts	4-26
4-18	Agricultural Impacts	4-28
4-19	Summary of Phase I Hazardous Materials Screening	4-29
4-20	Noise Abatement Criteria.....	4-31
4-21	Noise Impact Evaluation	4-32
7-1	Agency Coordination Summary	7-5
7-2	Summary of Public Hearing Testimony and Input Received during Public Comment Period.....	7-7
7-3	Agency Comment Summary	7-13

Exhibits

- 1-A Westby-Viroqua Corridor Study Area
- 1-B Existing and Forecasted Traffic Volumes: No Action Alternative
- 1-C USH 14/61 System Linkage
- 1-D USH 14 and USH 61 Segments: Corridors 2020 Backbone and Connector Highways

- 2-A One-Way Street Pair – City of Viroqua
- 2-B Initial Bypass Alternatives from 1996 Study
- 2-C Bypass Alternatives Presented at First Public Information Meeting
- 2-D Reasonable Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study
- 2-E Typical Cross Section for Bypass Segments on New Location
- 2-F Typical Cross Section for Widening Existing USH 14/61 between Westby and Viroqua
- 2-G Other Alternatives Considered
- 2-H Recommended Alternative

- 4-A Forecasted Traffic Volumes: Representative East Bypass
- 4-B Forecasted Traffic Volumes: Representative West Bypass
- 4-C Farmland Conversion Impact Rating for Corridor Type Projects
- 4-D Cina (Cunningham) Farmstead Historic Property

- 7-A Westby-Viroqua PAC List